

State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEK

2007

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, environmental education is a lifelong learning process that increases people's knowledge and awareness about the environment, engages children and adults in learning and equips them with the skills and motivation to make informed environmental decisions; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of people of the state of North Carolina to improve environmental awareness and take advantage of the outstanding environmental education programs, abundant natural resources and facilities available to all citizens of this state; and

WHEREAS, according to the *Environmental Education Fund General Survey of North Carolina Residents* (Aspinwall and Harrell, East Carolina University Survey Research Laboratory) 91 percent of North Carolinians surveyed said environmental education for children was important and 89 percent of North Carolinians said environmental education for adults was important; and

WHEREAS, environmental education in North Carolina will increase dramatically by creating a full week of educational preparation in K-12 classrooms, on university campuses, and at informal educational facilities such as nature and science centers, state, national and local parks, zoos, aquariums, museums, educational state forests, wildlife centers, soil and water conservation districts as well as coastal reserves, arboretums, botanical gardens, camps, 4-H centers, cultural resource centers and national wildlife refuges; and

WHEREAS, according to the North Carolina Office of Environmental Education, North Carolina has become a national leader in environmental education by certifying more than 750 "North Carolina Environmental Educators," including teachers and non-formal educators, and recognizing more than 190 "North Carolina Environmental Education Centers" that generate more than 20 million visitors annually and conduct approximately 60,000 environmental education programs each year; and

• WHEREAS, according to the North Carolina Nutrition and Physical Activity Surveillance System (NC-NPASS), more than 25 percent of North Carolina's children ages 5 to 18 are overweight, and environmental education activities get students outside and moving; and

WHEREAS, numerous peer-reviewed studies cited in the North Carolina Office of Environmental Education's research and data show that environmental education improves K-12 academic achievement across all disciplines, promotes healthy lifestyles and increases environmental literacy among our state's citizens; and

WHEREAS, collaborative efforts will increase the amount of environmental education taking place in America's classrooms prior to Earth Day while drawing educator attention to the larger opportunities and value of environmental education for both yearlong education and environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, environmental education will encourage schools to partner with local museums, nature centers, zoos, science centers, aquariums and local parks; and

WHEREAS, according statistics gathered by the North Carolina Office of Environmental Education, more than 300,000 students are taught by educators who have received training in environmental education, and more than 200,000 children participate in structured environmental education programs offered through agencies in the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, the professional environmental education community will have an opportunity to annually feature its accomplishments with the nation's educational leaders; and

WHEREAS, National Environmental Education Week will become an annually anticipated event for local participation in schools and various environmental education centers in North Carolina;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 15-22, 2007, as "NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEK" and call upon the people of North Carolina to recognize and participate in this special observance.




MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-second day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand and seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.